

S/N 09/484,344

PATENT**Remarks**

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on October 7, 2003. Claims 46 and 47 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 42, 45, and 48 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 42-45 and 48-51 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

I. Summary of Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the interview on March 1, 2004. During the interview, proposed amendments to claim 42 and the Jackson and Ojanen references were discussed. The amendments and remarks contained herein are consistent with and supplement the subject matter discussed during the interview.

II. Specification Objection

The disclosure was objected to because it does not clearly incorporate U.S. Patent No. 5,809,706 (the '706 patent). This objection is respectfully traversed.

It was not the Applicant's intention to incorporate the above-noted patent. Instead, reference to the '706 patent is made to provide context and background to the disclosure. Reconsideration and removal of the objection are respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 42-51 (claims 52 and 53 were previously canceled) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,567,153, in view of Ojanen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,560,671. This rejection is respectfully traversed, to the extent it is maintained.

Claims 46 and 47 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 42 and 48 have been amended to incorporate subject matter from claims 46 and 47.

Claim 42 recites that the lower and upper door parts are fixed to each other along an entire length of an assembly area of the door by a means selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding, brazing and riveting. Claim 42 further recites that the assembly area extends approximately horizontally and corresponds to a top of the lower door part and a bottom of the

S/N 09/484,344

PATENT

upper door part, and that the assembly area extends substantially an entire length of the upper door part.

It is advantageous to configure lower and upper door parts that are fixed in the manner recited by claim 42 for several reasons. For example, configuring the lower and upper doors parts as recited by claim 42 results in greater efficiency in the manufacturing process and lower manufacturing costs due to the simplification of the parts being assembled. In addition, fixing the upper door part to the lower door part using gluing, welding, brazing or riveting along the entire length of the upper door part increases the structural integrity of the resulting structure and also improves the seal between the two door parts, resulting in greater sealing against the outside environment (e.g., water and air).

Jackson discloses a door structure with removable panels 56 and 68 that are coupled to a door 28 by stakes 100, 102, and 104 received in cavities 82, 84, and 86 formed in the door 28. See Jackson, Figure 2. Jackson fails to suggest lower and upper door parts that are fixed to each other along an entire length of an assembly area of the door, as recited by claim 42. In Jackson, the panels 56 and 68 are not fixed along an entire length of an assembly area, but are instead fixed only at stakes 100, 102, and 104. In addition, Jackson fails to suggest lower and upper door parts that are fixed by a means selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding, brazing and riveting, as recited by claim 42. In contrast, Jackson discloses that panels 56 and 68 are removable. Jackson, col. 1, lines 14-19.

Ojanen discloses a window unit 10 that is mounted to a half door 22 by L-shaped brackets 24. See Ojanen, Figure 2. Ojanen fails to suggest lower and upper door parts that are fixed to each other along an entire length of an assembly area of the door, as recited by claim 42. In Ojanen, the window unit 10 is not fixed to the half door 22 along an entire length of an assembly area, but is instead fixed only at L-shaped brackets 24. In addition, Ojanen fails to suggest lower and upper door parts that are fixed by a means selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding, brazing and riveting, as recited by claim 42. In contrast, Jackson discloses that the window unit is removable. Ojanen, col. 6, lines 24-26.

Therefore, neither Jackson nor Ojanen, alone or in combination, render claim 42 obvious. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 42, as well as claims 43-45 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

S/N 09/484,344

PATENT


Claim 48, although not identical in scope to claim 42, includes limitations similar to those noted above with respect to claim 42. For example, claim 48 recites lower and upper door parts that are fixed to each other along an entire length of an assembly area of the door by a means selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding, brazing and riveting, and that the assembly area extends approximately horizontally and corresponds to a top of the lower door part and a bottom of the upper door part, and that the assembly area extends substantially an entire length of the upper door part. Therefore, claim 48 should be allowable for at least similar reasons to those provided above with respect to claim 42. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 48, as well as claims 49-51 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be resolved over the telephone, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: March 24, 2004

By: 
Name: John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112
JJG/RAK